# THE MILITARY SURGEON

Vol. 93 OCTOBER, 1943 No. 4


## ORIGINAL ARTICLES

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# THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE U. S. NAVY IN THE PHILIPPINES

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(With one illustration)

IN VIEW of recent heroic and tragic events occurring in the Philippines, a brief review of Naval Medical history and activities during the period of American occupation of the archipelago becomes of greater and more absorbing interest.

To one attempting to portray a historical sketch of such activities in these Islands, a better grasp and more thorough understanding is obtained of the peculiar and often unique conditions confronting the Naval Medical Officer in the performance of his many and often highly diversified duties if brief consideration is paid to the origin of the medical arts and science in the Philippines, both ancient and modern.

The dawn of our medical history pertaining to this archipelago is entirely legendary and veiled in the mists of time. But few tangible remnants appear. During the period of the Spanish conquest and the disorders attendant thereto, whatever early records that may have been extant were either deliberately destroyed by the over-zealous "Padres" or otherwise lost to us. A few writings of early chroniclers, traditions handed down among the *Curonderos*, or native healers, and legends in the hands of native mystics, however, afford us but scanty material from which some tangible ideas may be derived.

Before Spanish times primitive native medicine, as practiced, may for convenience be divided into three general phases or periods, the first being the "mystic," when the natives worshipped *Bathala*, the supreme being or god, the dispenser of all good and evil, and for whom the modern "tao," or native peasant, still has a vast amount of respect. Lesser gods, termed *Anitos*, or, more properly, household dieties, were reputed as coming to earth and dwelling with men, being regarded by the natives as representatives of the great and all powerful *Bathala*. Their chief function was to pacify evil spirits and, in connection with primitive medicine, each disease was supposed to be caused by a special malevolent one. The "treatment" em-



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ployed to oust these malign spirits was frequently most drastic, as is always to be found among primitive peoples.

With the passage of time, this era was superseded by the period of "Superstition," the credulous natives pinning their faith on charms or amulets termed *aguinot,* to which great virtues were attributed, these objects having the power to protect the owner against enemies and evils of whatever kind. This superstition is firmly believed to this day, especially by the Moros, all of whom zealously guard their personal charm, depending upon its power to turn aside the hostile kris or borong. A child born "feet first" was termed a *sahi* and was reputed to possess miraculous powers, such as healing the sick, removing fish bones from the throat, winning the love of one desired, and the old native priestesses, or *viejas,* could prognosticate the fate of the sick or captive by practicing *tali* with eggs, stones, etc., somewhat like our American Indians and their "medicine men." To this day the Philippine native is profoundly superstitious and has a sign and omen for every occurrence. As illustrative, the "tao," suffering from any form of stomach ailment of no matter what cause, believes he is able to restore appetite and health by the placing of food upon the abdomen where it will be absorbed. This superstition is obstinately believed and widely practiced to this day, proving the very thin veneer of Christianity to be found among the vast majority of the present day Filipino people.

The third phase may, for convenience, be termed the "empiric" period. It has principally to do with the native *herbolarios,* or herbalists, who flourished at the time of the Spanish Conquistadores, the latter being attracted by both the profusion of native medicinal plants and their use by those natives skilled in their preparation. The early Spanish missionaries devoted much time to the study thereof and about 1669 Padre Francisco Alcera, S.J., published a manual covering his research in the field and recommending those herbs considered suitable for treating various complaints of both man and beast. In 1712 another treatise on this subject was written by Padre Clain, S.J., who elaborated upon the work previously performed by other workers in this field.

These early native *herbolarios* possessed extensive knowledge of the medicinal value of numerous plants and herbs in addition to the sources of many poisons and their antidotes. Many of these really excellent remedies are in general use to this day, thereby demonstrating their worth even in the face of modern, scientific exactions.

As is well known, smallpox inoculation had been practiced for centuries in the Orient, including the Philippines, where it had been introduced by the Chinese, and where the inoculation from patient to recipient was widely employed, thus but anticipating our more modern scientific procedure.

Medical progress throughout the Islands under Spanish rule was slow and limited and, such as it was, en-

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tirely controlled by both Church and State. Accounts of Padres Brezeta and Brono, published in 1650, record the expedition of Legaspi, who first brought medical personnel with him to Manila in 1571. These medical pioneers founded the first charity and health centers in early Manila. From this period down to 1888, medicine and the healing art in general may be best described as static, while in the latter year the first attempt at a Government laboratory was established in Manila for the more scientific study of the causes of the many epidemics and infectious diseases scourging the Islands, which had formerly been regarded merely as "Acts of God" and let go at that. The "Laboratorio Municipal," with its morgue and other gruesome appurtenances, was under the control of the City of Manila and directed by one del Rosario. However, it was rather primitive, even for 1888, and but indifferently equipped for the work intended.

The first authentic records of an actual hospital appear during Legaspi's time, but it was apparently short lived, it's name even failing to have been recorded. The Hospital of San Juan de Dios, founded some time between 1571-96, is the first bona fide hospital of which we have any definite knowledge. From these early times up to the latter part of the 19th century Manila had the unsavory reputation of being the worst pest hole in the Orient, directly attributable to the apathy of the authorities and the general indolence of the population. Due to the lack of medical laboratory facilities, thousands died needlessly each year of epidemics, various tropical diseases, filthy living conditions, contaminated water supply and the absence of the most elementary sanitary and hygienic precautions. At the time of the American occupation there was not a single reservoir, artesian well or pipe line in the entire Philippines excepting the antiquated and highly polluted Manila water supply.

Incident to the prohibitive cost of a medical education in Europe, with attendant long absence from home and necessary separation from home and friends, together with an awakening spirit of professional and scientific interest in medical matters, the Santo Tomas University, the oldest in the Islands, opened the San Jose Medical School in 1871. Early teaching was meagre and principally theoretical. San Juan de Dios Hospital was used for bedside instruction to a limited extent. The first class graduated in 1876, following a five years' course. At this period, to be the possessor of a degree in one of the "learned professions" connoted wealth and position and many of the men subsequently of prominence in the future history of their country appear in the student bodies of the time, notably Rizal, Aguinaldo, Tonesa, Bautista, Gomez, Leadu and others active in the revolutionary days to come.

In 1898 the American Army of Occupation found the "Laboratorio Municipal" moribund and destitute of all proper and efficient scientific equip-

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ment, following the chaotic conditions resulting from the insurrection of 1896. The *Laboratorio,* so called, was later merged with the Sternberg General Hospital, the most important Army activity of this nature in the Islands during our period of occupation. An Army Medical Board, ordered to formulate plans for medical investigation and general health improvement, was appointed in 1900. It performed yeoman service and its achievements mark the beginning of the development of really modern medical work in the Philippines. Coincident therewith, numerous hospitals, health centers and institutions of learning, such as medical schools, medical laboratories, dispensaries, nurses training schools and child welfare were both founded and endowed, all with the view of terminating the medieval conditions then existing, with an appalling death rate and an unbelievably high rate of morbidity from various diseases. Every other child died before its first birthday.

The Insular Government also established a Bureau of Health and a Quarantine service, both of which were badly needed at the time of their official birth, as the medical officers of these services were already confronted with an alarming cholera epidemic, which broke out in Manila early in 1902 and rapidly spread to the Provinces. Warnings were at once issued to all Army and Navy commands concerning special measures necessary to safeguard their personnel against this terrifying disease. By May 15, a total of 4,215 cases, with 3,322 deaths were reported! The Surgeon General's report for the U. S. Army for the year 1902 states there were a total of 128,000 known cases with 81,500 deaths among the native Filipinos alone! During this same period Bilibid Prison, in Manila, was running an average of more than 4,000 cases of beri-beri per month and it was estimated that the annual death toll from various other diseases—all preventable—ran about as follows: smallpox, 4,000; leprosy, 1,200; malaria, all forms, 25,000; tuberculosis, well over 40,000. Truly an appalling casualty list!

The task of combatting these various diseases was found to be an exceedingly difficult and discouraging one, indeed, due to ignorance, superstition and down-right hostility and the woeful lack of a pure water supply and proper sewage disposal. The natives disregarded health regulations, concealed cases of communicable disease and in many other ways promoted the spread thereof. But despite these endless hurdles, the pioneer Public Health officers, under the able direction of Dr. V. G. Heiser, and with the wholehearted backing and help of the Army and Naval Medical Departments, were able to make progress and minimize the havoc wrought by these various diseases and eventually succeed in checking their ravages, thereby saving countless lives.

Coincidentally, a great impetus in matters pertaining to the public health and care of the sick developed, resulting in such notable progress as the open-

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ing of the Leper colony in Culion in 1906 and the opening of many new hospitals, both religious and governmental. At about this time, it was estimated there were but 377 physicians, excluding those in Government service, in all the Philippines, which was increased to 2,901 thirty years later, or one physician to every 4,700 inhabitants. With the exception of Japan alone, the Philippines lead all Asia in medical progress and number of practicing physicians.

The beginning of Naval medical activities, per se, properly starts with May 1, 1898, when Admiral Dewey vanquished the Spanish Fleet and took over the Cavite Arsenal and vicinity. Thereafter, medical progress kept step in all respects with other Naval developments in the Cavite-Olongapo-Canacao area. Immediately upon Naval occupation of Cavite and the Navy Yard, a small hospital, or more properly, dispensary was established in an old Spanish Navy Yard structure, affording the most primitive accommodations at best. It was used for the purpose intended until 1900, when a Yard Dispensary and new "sick bay" was established in another more suitable structure. Later on, as additional space became necessary, a portion of the Comandancia, erected by Valenzuela in 1634 and occupied as headquarters by both the Spanish and American Naval Commandants, was fitted up for the accommodation of the sick. This was the time of the dreadful cholera epidemic which was raging throughout the archipelago and to which reference has already been made. The Comandancia building is reported to have been utterly destroyed by Japanese bombs during their attacks on Cavite in December, 1941.

*Yard Dispensary, Navy Yard, Cavite.* The Yard Dispensary, as we have known it, was a frame two story structure, erected in 1903 for the Yard Construction Officer and turned over to the Medical Department by him in 1906 and converted for medical use. It was likewise totally destroyed by Japanese bombing and all personnel present are reported as killed. In October, 1941, at the time of the writer's detachment, three Medical and three Dental Officers, with sixteen Hospital Corpsmen, were attached to this activity, four additional enlisted men and one Medical Officer being on detached duty in the Mariveles area. Their services at the Dispensary were diversified and included daily "Sick Calls," averaging over 130 patients; physical examinations for Service personnel and civil employees of the Navy Yard; emergency treatment for industrial injuries; physical examinations of retired Navy, Marine Corps and Insular Force personnel; dental work for all personnel of the Yard and visiting ships of the Asiatic Fleet with no Dental Officer attached, as well as sanitary and general inspection duties. The Yard Surgeon served as Quarantine Officer for all Pan-American Clipper planes arriving and departing from their station at Cavite and, in conjunction with the local health authorities, acted as sanitary inspector of cabarets, cafes and

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other places of amusement as well as markets and food stores in the vicinity of the Navy Yard, at the same time keeping close tabs over local sanitary matters in general.

*U. S. Naval Dispensary, Naval Station, Olongapo.* This two story, frame structure was built in 1901 for the Public Works Department and was assigned to the Medical Department for use as a "sick bay" and Dispensary in 1922. Prior thereto, the hospital ship *Relief*, the original of that name having been found unseaworthy upon arrival at Manila at the time of the 1908 around-the-world cruise, was assigned to this Station as a floating dispensary, which duty she performed until scrapped in 1922, her name being changed to *Repose* upon the commissioning of the present U.S.S. *Relief*. The Medical Department was then transferred to its new quarters, as mentioned above. Prior to the advent of the *Relief* a small hospital, or rather "sick bay" was maintained in the Marine Barracks building.

The Yard Dispensary could accommodate 17 patients and was fitted with a pharmacy, operating room, X-ray outfit, dental office and storerooms. It, like the one at Cavite, dealt with Public Health and Quarantine problems in addition to supplying medical care for officer, enlisted Navy and Marine personnel and civilian employees and their dependents connected with the Naval Station. The Medical Officer likewise kept a sharp eye on local sanitary and hygienic matters and was intimately concerned with the successful operation of the Camilla Simpson civil hospital, an endowed institution, in collaboration with the local native physicians.

*U. S. Naval Hospital, Canacao, P.I.* One approaches the subject of the Naval Hospital with a certain degree of trepidation, inasmuch as its early history under Spanish rule is vague, contradictory and highly unreliable. As near as can be approximately determined, with any semblance of accuracy, a small Spanish hospital was located on the site as far back as the early '60's. Prior thereto, the Spanish authorities made use of the San Juan de Dios Hospital, long since disappeared, located in Cavite, as is shown on early maps of this area. With the passage of time and increased demands, it was gradually enlarged and jointly used by both the Spanish military and naval personnel, being administered under the auspices of a Catholic Sisters of Charity organization from 1874. The site itself, on Canacao Bay, is historic and recalls the days of the Spanish conquest, for the point of land immediately adjacent to the hospital grounds is termed Sangley Point, the name being a Spanish corruption of Sung Li, a notorious Chinese pirate and rebel against Spanish domination, who, with many others of his race, were removed from Manila, after the crushing of the revolt in 1683, to this sand pit and forced to labor on the galleons being constructed at the old Spanish ship yard or *Varadero*, dating from 1588, and still operating in 1941. Quite a record! It is related that cobras were introduced into the

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Philippines via this route, being conveyed thereto in teak and other timber from Burmah.

At the time of American occupation the hospital was found to consist of a ward for European patients, the only part of the original hospital still in use in 1941, a "Sister's" home, a Pay Office, a large ward for native patients, a casino, or *Sala de Recreacion,* for both officers and men, a small barracks for the guard detachment, necessary commissary and service buildings, including a carabao corral, a "pest house" and officers' quarters, the latter structure comprising the American Commanding Officer's quarters, which at that time housed the military commander, administration offices and a signal station, and one of the two small units later to be assigned as Sick Officers' Quarters. The greater part of the activities enumerated were located either near or on the site of the new American hospital, to which reference will be made further on. A small chapel, similar in design to the one in the Cavite Navy Yard, and apparently a standard type for all Spanish military chapels, stood near the site of the new flag pole, erected at the time of commissioning the new American hospital.

Following the capture of Cavite by Admiral Dewey, the four hundred Spanish patients under treatment in the hospital, with their attendants and eight nursing Sisters, were transferred in United States vessels to Manila and accommodated in Concordia College, Convent of Guadeloupe and Santa Isabel College until further arrangements for their ultimate disposal could be accomplished.

This hospital group of buildings was not used as such by the American forces until 1905, during which time the Navy and Marine sick were accommodated in the small quarters in the Navy Yard referred to above. The buildings were, however, used for storage and depot purposes, a medical storehouse being maintained, together with a Marine detachment to guard the property. Accommodations for the sick, according to American lights, were both unsatisfactory and wholly inadequate, the buildings being generally in poor repair and the water supply being especially serious, inasmuch as no source then existed aside from that stored in the old Spanish cistern or *tanque,* constructed above ground of soft, tufa stone and flat Spanish bricks and the most picturesque and colorful reminder of the Spanish colonial period to be found in the entire area. This old *tanque* was briefly written up and published in the *Proceedings of U. S. Naval Institute* for January, 1942. The landward side of the structure still clearly shows the bullet holes appearing in the walls against which many Filipino patriots were executed by the Spaniards during the numerous revolts against their rule.

In 1905 the old hospital was modernized, equipped and, under command of Medical Inspector C. T. Hibbett, U. S. Navy, officially placed in commission as a full fledged U. S. Naval Hospital March 14 of that year.

The chapel, referred to above, was

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converted into an administration building and officers' quarters and other necessary structures either erected, remodeled, or improvised from structures available. It will be recalled that the U. S. Naval Hospital at Yokohama, Japan, was then in commission and vastly better implemented to care for Naval patients than the make-shift facilities existing at Cavite, but with the steadily increasing demands from the Fleet, and the large Marine forces then in the field, more commodious quarters were required closer at hand. This accounts, at least in part, for the apparent delay in establishing a Naval hospital in this area at an earlier date following American occupation.

During its early days as an American Naval hospital it afforded care for wounded Russian sailors from various units of the Russian Fleet interned at Manila during the Russo-Japanese War. The death register reveals that three Russian sailors from the *Oleg* and one from the *Aurora* were interred in the Naval Cemetery, which also contains the remains of several Spanish soldiers and sailors.

Shortly after its opening, a Native Clinic, which took care of virtually all the native population in the Cavite area, was officially established, but the service was so greatly abused that it was eventually abolished in 1924, at which time local native facilities were held to be sufficiently ample and adequate for the purpose. Coincidentally, the old Marine Barracks were transferred to the hospital and converted into additional quarters for the sick.

Construction of the new hospital group of buildings was authorized in 1925 and work promptly started, the buildings being completed during the following year. These new buildings, comprising the administration, operating suite, specialty departments, commissary, mess hall and ward block, were all constructed of re-inforced concrete, with asbestos shingle roofing, steel roof trusses and window sashes and concrete and tile floors; in other words, planned to be in all respects fire-proof. The foundations were designed to be "earthquake proof," but fortunately for both patients and staff, were not put to the test during our occupation.

What little wood employed in trim was of the best Philippine products obtainable, principally molave and yacal. The wards were designed along broad, airy and cool lines, amply shaded and ventilated. Capiz shell, as is customary throughout the archipelago, and obtained from a bi-valved shell fish, which is extensively cultivated for this purpose, was employed in all window frames in lieu of glass giving a soft, pleasing light to interior spaces with no objectionable glare.

The administration building was planned to be of sufficient size to readily care for any future reasonable expansion and besides administration offices, etc., contained treatment rooms for the different specialties, such as eye, ear, nose and throat, X-ray, dental (operating and prosthetic), laboratories, out patient clinics, library, and electro-cardiograph, all of which activities were formerly scattered about the com-

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pound in small, detached, frame buildings. The third floor of the main building was devoted entirely to the surgical operating suites and necessary preparatory rooms and storage spaces for surgical equipment. Patients were conveyed thereto by elevators.

craftsman, virtually all the work being accomplished by native artisans. It is held that this hospital, as a whole, compared most favorably with any similar institution in the entire Orient and reflects great credit upon both designers and architects, as well as the laborers,

Main Entrance and Front of U. S. Naval Hospital, Canacao, P.I. 10-4-41.

The Commissary section conformed in construction with the other units of the group and were designed sufficiently large and commodious to accommodate any contemplated expansion. The two new wards could, without crowding, easily care for 120 patients on the two floors.

Workmanship throughout was of a high order and a lasting tribute to all concerned. Especially does it illustrate the capability and skill of the Filipino whose excellent work has been noted.

The two large wards in this new group housed the medical and surgical patients. The urological service was accommodated in the only remaining Spanish frame "ward" building, as noted above, and had a capacity of 120 patients. There was a detached isolation ward of 30 beds and a similar structure for contagious cases with 16 beds. Sick Officers' quarters routinely afforded quarters for 14 patients, but

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capable of expansion to 20 without crowding. There were separate concrete storehouses, garages and cook's quarters, barracks for Hospital Corpsmen, Ship's Service activities, a chapel, crew's library, steam laundry, power house, various utility buildings and a morgue. In brief, a compact, practically self contained activity, situated in beautiful grounds, filled with stately shade trees, flowering shrubs and colorful plants. Paved roads traversed the grounds, of 36 acres extent, in all needful directions and the entire compound was surrounded on the land side by a 14 foot wire fence. The sea wall, along lovely Canacao Bay, was adorned with Baguio type lamps, somewhat like a Japanese stone temple lamp, which effective method of lighting was also employed throughout the grounds.

There were nine sets of staff quarters, all frame, and a new, concrete fireproof Nurses' quarters, with all modern appliances and equipment, completed in 1927. Several of these buildings in the hospital group, especially the nurses' quarters, officers' quarters and others, are reported as either badly damaged or destroyed by Japanese bombing.

The water supply for the Hospital, a determining factor in its occupation, was derived from three artesian wells, completed between 1905 and 1936, affording ample water for current needs and fire protection. An elevated steel tank supplied drinking water for the reservation, being aerated and pumped automatically as required. Another large concrete reservoir tank, provided water storage for fire protection and the swimming pool.

At the time the writer left the Philippines, in October, 1941, the authorized complement of the Hospital was as follows:

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| Medical Officers | 10 |
| Dental Officers | 2 |
| Pharmacists | 4 |
| Navy Nurse Corps | 13 |
| Hospital Corpsmen | 98 |
| Civil Employees (All Categories) | 80 |

The total bed capacity for patients was placed at 300, with further expansion to 500 readily feasible. Plans for still further expansion, in view of the ever darkening international situation, had been drawn up and submitted, but, luckily, this work had not been started at the onset of the Japanese invasion, at which time it is reported the Hospital and its personnel were evacuated elsewhere.

*Out Patient Department and Dependent Ward.* All bona fide dependents of Naval and Marine personnel were formerly afforded dispensary treatment at the Yard Dispensary at Cavite, but this out-patient clinic was transferred to the Naval Hospital in 1938. No provision at the time, however, for their hospitalization was officially authorized until in December of this same year, upon receipt of which authority, steps were at once taken to provide the special arrangements and equipment necessary for this type of service. A suitable and available building was converted into a compact, comfortable, air conditioned, self contained little hospital in itself, with private rooms for six patients, an operating and delivery suite, nursery, diet kitchen and accessories for the proper care of the

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wives and families of the officers and men of the Navy and Marine Corps. This dependent ward, vitally necessary to these Service dependents, became available for additional space for sick officers and such special cases as occurred following the evacuation of all Service dependents in 1940-1. Inasmuch as adequate civilian medical care and hospital facilities, suitable for American women and children were wholly lacking in this area, the imperative need for such a service, if and when such personnel might be present, was deemed vitally necessary. It normally was staffed by a Naval Medical Officer specializing in this particular branch of medicine, a Naval Nurse as supervisor, three Hospital Corpsmen and a native nurse and maids, increased as the patient load required. The Medical Officer was authorized to make free use of all hospital facilities and the services of the regular staff in the care of this class of patients.

*U. S. Naval Dispensary, Manila.* For many years it had been found expedient to afford medical attention for Service personnel and their immediate dependents in the Manila area. Especially did this need become pressing whenever the U. S. Asiatic Fleet was concentrated in this area. In order to meet this demand, at least in part, it was customary for a Medical Officer of the Navy attached to the Cavite Navy Yard Dispensary to be detailed therefor, he making his headquarters in the Army and Navy Club building, where office care was afforded, such cases as might require hospitalization being admitted to Sternberg General Hospital by special arrangement. This inadequate service, however falling far short of actual needs, a Naval Dispensary was later established, by order of the Commander-in-Chief, Asiatic Fleet, and first located on Perez Street, Manila. Subsequently an arrangement was made with the Army, permitting its transfer to more accessible and suitable quarters in the Cuartel de Espana, Intramuros, Manila, its last location under American rule. This service, following the evacuation of dependents, referred to above, was thereafter principally concerned with physical examinations, care of Service personnel in the Manila area, both of the Fleet and the Sixteenth Naval District. The authorized complement, all permanently attached to the Naval Hospital, and assigned therefrom for this duty, consisted of one Medical Officer, one Hospital Corpsman and one Dental Officer and Navy Nurse from the Hospital, as their services were found necessary.

Equipment and supplies were all derived from the Hospital. Dispensary service and calls at the residence of personnel requiring such care was likewise provided. More serious cases and those requiring hospitalization were referred to the Naval Hospital, Canacao, for such further care as might be indicated. No information as to the subsequent fate of this activity is available, aside from the presumption that it was probably damaged or destroyed by Japanese bombing attacks on the Walled City.

*U. S. Naval Medical Supply Depot, Canacao.* Prior to September, 1908, the Naval Medical Storehouse, as then

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termed was first located in the old Spanish hospital group at Canacao and later in the Comandancia, Navy Yard, Cavite. By an Act of Congress, 1907, funds were appropriated to construct a "Naval Medical Storehouse" and a set of Pharmacists' quarters in the Naval Hospital Reservation. Construction was started late the same year. The contract time for completion expired August 3, 1908, at which time the concrete walls were only six feet above the second story level. However, the building was sufficiently completed to permit occupancy in the following month, the Pharmacists' quarters being occupied about the same time.

This Medical Supply Depot building consisted of a two story, concrete structure, with a total cubic capacity of 133,056 cubic feet. On the first floor storage space was allocated for cased supplies, expeditionary field hospital outfits, lock room for alcohol, a large electric refrigerator for biologicals and a dressing room with lockers for civil employees. The offices, carpenter shop, packing and shipping rooms, shelving space for loose materials, surgical instruments and other appliances were located on the second floor. A complete stock of various serological products, kept up-to-date for Fleet needs, was always maintained; certain items, such as vaccines against small-pox and cholera being obtained locally. Many others were derived from laboratories in this country, while such special items as anti-cobra serum was obtainable from Siam, where an extensive laboratory for the preparation of various snake antivenins is maintained. Recently, however, the manufacture of this and allied sera was inaugurated by the Bureau of Science in Manila, another testimonial to scientific medical progress in the Philippines.

There was a complete expeditionary field hospital outfit in stock, kept ever ready for emergency requirements, either in the field for military use or likewise immediately available for humanitarian needs in case of any major catastrophe of whatever nature. At the time of the devastating earthquake in Japan, in 1923, that completely destroy the U. S. Naval Hospital at Yokohama, medical supplies and equipment valued at more than $13,600.00 were dispatched thereto, for humanitarian relief measures. The facilities of this activity were such as to accommodate any reasonable expansion, with but moderate additions to the existing plant.

At one time a narrow gauge railway, with carabao motive power, ran from the Hospital wharf to and into the Supply Depot. This was removed, however, in 1929-30, upon the acquisition of additional motor transport. The Mission of the Medical Supply Depot was to maintain an adequate stock of medical supplies and equipment at all times in order to properly provide medical necessities to all activities coming under the jurisdiction of the U. S. Asiatic Fleet, excepting the Naval Hospitals at Canacao and at Guam, to which activities medical supplies were issued only to meet emergency needs.

Organization and personnel consisted of the Medical Officer in Command (likewise Commanding Officer

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of the Hospital, with this duty in addition thereto), one Pharmacist, three Hospital Corpsmen and four civilian (Filipino) employees, the latter being classified as "packers." This activity was found by experience to be of inestimable value to the Medical Department of the Fleet and other Asiatic activities, its maintenance being held necessary for current demands therefrom.

*Recreation and Entertainment.* Recreation and entertainment for those assigned to duty at the Hospital, and for patients as well, was both ample and diversified. Clubs for commissioned and warrant officers, both open to the Navy nurses, patient and visiting officers and their families, a Club for enlisted personnel, a bowling alley, baseball park, golf course, handball and four tennis courts, pool, billiards, badminton and several tables for ping pong and table tennis, together with a large recreation building, where nightly "movies" were shown, a bit old, but still highly appreciated, and a large, well equipped Ship's Service Store, affording practically all reasonable services and requirements, were available.

In the early days of the Hospital, under American rule, there was a "shark pool," or fenced-in area to avoid annoyance by these pests so common in Manila Bay, provided for swimmers, but the sea water proving so highly polluted, this "pool" was abandoned entirely upon the completion of the new Radio Station swimming pool in 1929. It was supplied with fresh water from both the Naval Hospital and the Radio Station.

A cordial and close liaison was always maintained with U. S. Army, U. S. Public Health Service and Commonwealth Governmental medical and administrative activities, which proved most helpful and co-operative. Particularly was this of great importance in relation to local sanitary and health problems, likewise serving to keep the Naval Medical Officers in close touch with the general health situation throughout the Islands. Semi-monthly conferences were held at the Naval Hospital, all Medical Officers of the Army, Navy, Public Health Service and health officers of the Philippine Government being notified and cordially invited to attend. These conferences permitted an intimate exchange of medical views and were a source of most valuable assistance in the efforts of all concerned to combat disease and promote better health conditions.

The American Red Cross, Philippine Chapter, was always most generous and co-operative, especially in the dispensing of cheer and happiness to those so far from home during the Holiday Seasons. Likewise, the Welfare Department performed a most valuable service to the personnel in times of duress, thus materially assisting in the maintenance of morale, both mental and physical.

A perusal of the records reveals that the types of the more common diseases and injured among Navy personnel who were afforded treatment in the hospital, since its original commissioning as a U. S. Naval activity, varied but little from year to year. There were no severe epidemics subsequent

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to the cholera flare-ups of 1902-6. The fight against malaria and other tropical diseases continued unabated during the period of American occupation and their incidence, due to vigorous and effective measures of control, was gradually lessening, but the danger of devastating epidemics suddenly breaking out in the Islands is ever present, unceasing vigilance remaining imperative, as the Japanese invaders may well learn to their cost. All medical groups throughout the archipelago were united in fighting disease of all kinds, and, if still functioning, were waging a valiant battle, particularly against tuberculosis, one of the major scourges among the natives. Results were encouraging in general.

Since its original opening in 1905, it is estimated that over 50,000 patients of all categories were treated in the Naval Hospital alone; the patient load for 1940 totalling well over 1,446 admitted, which figure may conservatively be taken as an average for anything like normal times.

In the preparation of this rambling historical sketch of events and activities concerning the various functions of the Naval Medical Department in the Philippines, due acknowledgement is hereby made and sincere thanks extended for the many courtesies received from all quarters and especially to the members of that gallant Staff, who by their generous and wholehearted help in gathering necessary data, have made this compilation possible. Many of the latter are now prisoners of war, others are sick or wounded, others have met a hero's death in the performance of their humanitarian labors, but those still among the living doubtless share, with all of us, the grim determination to eject the aggressors and regain our supremacy in the Philippines, where we may again in safety carry on under the flag of our country.

U. S. Naval Hospital,
Parris Island, South Carolina.

# WHAT HITLER MEANS IN "MEIN KAMPF"

OR

## What the American Soldier Should Know About Hitler's Book "Mein Kampf" in Case He Reads It*

By MAJOR MERRILL MOORE, *Medical Corps, Army of the United States*

OFFICERS and enlisted men often ask me if I have read Hitler's book, *Mein Kampf*, which some of them have read. Also they ask me what I think of it. They know that in civilian life my work was psychiatry and that, in addition to be-

* An address delivered before the School for Medical Department Technicians of Fitzsimons General Hospital, Denver, Colorado, September 22, 1942, by order of the Commandant, Colonel W. W. McCaw, as part of the Orientation Course for the officers and enlisted men of the Command.

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